

**KEYNOTE  
Speaker**

**DR. PETER JENSEN**

Health expert Dr. Peter Jensen speaks on *Reducing the Strain and Increasing the Gain* at the Access to Success Forum Tuesday at the Four Seasons Inn on the Park, 1100 Eglinton Ave. E.

**THE WEEK'S  
Agenda**
**TUESDAY**

Manpower Temporary Services unveils its electronic employment equity data base today at 124 Eglinton Avenue West, 4th Floor, Call: 480-1212.

The Business Development Centre holds an Import-Export Seminar by Bob Pollock at the York Main Library, 1745 Eglinton Ave. W., 6:30-10 p.m. Call 789-2485.

Statistics Canada releases its monthly survey of manufacturing for October. Factory shipments dropped 2.5% in September following an increase of 4.5% in August. The decrease was broadly based — 15 of the 22 major manufacturing groups reported lower shipment levels.

**WEDNESDAY**

Daniel Langevin, director of marketing for the Price Club, talks about *Adapting to Meet the Changing Needs of the '90s* at the Metro Board of Trade's North East Executive Forum at the NorthEast Club in the Atria North, 7:45-9 a.m. Call 366-6811.

**FRIDAY**

Statistics Canada will release the consumer price index for November. In October, the year-over-year inflation rate for Canada rose to 1.6% from 1.3% in September. The country's inflation rate has stayed below 2% since the start of the year.

**Have an  
event?**

Fax details to us and we'll put it on our agenda

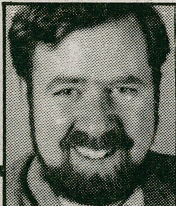
**416-947-2041**

# YOUR Money

YOUR Money editor: Linda Leatherdale 947-2388

**FIRM DUPLICATES SKELTONS OF DINOSAURS**

# Past profit

**Ian  
ROBERTSON**


When Peter May graduated from university in 1977, he never dreamed his modern sculpture training would lead to a career focused on the prehistoric past.

But in the five years since launching Research Casting International in an Oakville industrial park, he's gained a global reputation for authentically duplicating the skeletons of long-extinct dinosaurs.

Until recently, his giant replicas have been shipped to museums across Canada and around the world, except for the Toronto area. But May, 37, recently finished work on a dinosaur set for a Steven Spielberg film — "our first venture into Hollywood."

*Jurassic Park*, which includes a 39.7-metre (45-foot) long skeletal Tyrannosaurus Rex and a 15.2-metre (50-foot) long Alamosaurus built by May's staff of 13, hits theatres in June.

He was head paleontology technician at the Royal Ontario Museum when several U.S. museums wooed him for freelance dinosaur mounting. After years at the ROM, the Drumheller, Alta. Tyrrell Museum, and on U.S. and Canadian field "digs," May had the respect of colleagues in the close-knit paleontology community.

In 1987, he founded Research Casting and began part-time production of several dinosaur skeleton reproductions a year.

He quit the ROM in mid-1991, expanded his part-time staff of three to a compliment of nine, and built sales to an estimated \$800,000 this year.

With 10 skeletons due by mid-January, "we're doing dinosaurs full time," he said. Most are Japan-bound, but he recently delivered one to McGill University's Redpath Museum, Montreal, and seven replicas to London, England's famed British Museum (Natural History).

His largest display is a 15.2 m plant-eating Barosaurus in the American Museum of Natural History, New York. The 550 kg (1,200 lb.) giant is posed defending her baby from a flesh-eating Allosaurus.

Ancient bones turn brittle after excavation and museums often display full-size models, said Dr. Lowell Dingus, project director of the AMNH's \$40-million dinosaur hall reconstruction program.

May also said a visitor's view of the display would have been obscured by the extra reinforcing steel if the unique, 12,000-pound adult Barosaurus skeleton was used to build North America's largest free-standing dinosaur display.

May's team painstakingly sprayed rubber latex moulds on hundreds of bones stored since the 1920s. Lined with fibreglas, polyurethane foam duplicates were produced in a process he says is similar to "building a yacht."

May borrows museum moulds and also makes original castings, which take about three weeks in the case of a T-Rex.

The most unusual part of the New York project took the team to eastern Montana where they sprayed rubber latex on the 19.8 x 6.1-metre (65 x 20-foot) surface of a sandstone badlands.

Since the 19th century, when rich and influential people sponsored new museums and expeditions to supply tons of prehistoric displays, dinosaurs "have always been popular," Dingus said. "But in the last 10 to 15 years, as more discussion was held about why they became extinct ... interest has certainly increased."

If you're desperate to have a dinosaur in your backyard, May can oblige. An Allosaurus will set you back \$40,000, "around the price of a BMW. Or you can get an off-the-shelf Diplodocus for around \$100,000."



THE TAILBONE'S CONNECTED TO ... Karen Ripley works on the tail end of a dinosaur skelton.

**SMALL  
Business  
REPORT**
**Research Casting in brief**

COMPANY — Research Casting International.

OWNER — Peter May

YEAR STARTED — 1987

STARTING STAFF — 3

CURRENT STAFF — 13

SALES, 1991 — \$30,000-\$40,000

SALES 1992 (estimated) — \$800,000